The United State of Rajasthan

A STATEMENT
ON
THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT

THE PREMIER PANDIT HIRALAL SHASTRI

28th April, 1949.

1. The Integration into a single unit of the historic States of Rajputana is a big event. It is no surprise therefore if integration of these States has met with a lot of difficulties. The formation of the Ministry of such a big State has also not been quite easy. The responsibility which was already heavy has thus become all the more so on account of so many difficulties, both internal and external. However, the Government of Rajasthan has full confidence in itself to go ahead; yet we must admit that we do feel the pressure of the onerous responsibilities that have devolved on us. It is obvious that we have to begin from the very beginning. We have not taken over charge of a State in working. In fact we have to create and organise a new State. The centuries old political boundaries of various States have not disappeared yet, and with these boundaries the mental separatism of the general mass of the public, as well as of us workers, also continues to persist. We are not quite above the local attachment that we feel towards our States, which no more exist now as separate entities, and our cities and towns. Any way, this new and big State is now to be divided, according to our requirements, into various divisions and their head offices are to be located, Districts and tehsils are to be formed, and this is going to involve us in quite a lot of difficulties. As soon as the question of capital is settled, we shall also decide the question of the location of the major departments of the Government in such a way as to maintain the importance of the various cities of this State. We will also see that in spite of the vast territory of this new State, the public at large has not to face inconvenience in matters connected with administration.

2. So far this reconstituted United State of Rajasthan consists of the five units namely, Former Rajasthan, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer. The decision about Matsya States is awaited. The question of Ajmer-Merwara also remains undecided and there is the further question of Sirohi as well. I have every hope that all these questions would be satisfactorily solved. At present we have begun the work of integration with what we have already got. The Secretariat of the Government of Rajasthan is being organised and neces-

sary officers and staff therefor are being appointed. The Provincial High Court and the Public Service Commission are also in the process of making. The Inspector-General of Police, the Accountant-General, and heads of other departments are also being appointed. We have also taken in hand the big task of integrating the different departments of the various units of the new State and an integration committee has already been appointed for this purpose. It need be hardly said that the work of integration is going to be a very stupendous and difficult job. With the integration of departments and services, the integration of finances is also to be done. And only after the financial integration we shall know as to where the new State stands in respect of its income. I fear there will be some reduction in our income and not a little increase in our expenditure. But all the same I hope that all will go well. It is our desire to give help and relief to the services but certainly we will have to see how far our finances permit us to do so. Consolidation and unification of laws is also an important work to be done. All this integration business will take time and in the meanwhile we have decided to continue in different units the exsiting administrative arrangements under the charge of certain officers. In spite of all our efforts there is no doubt that this period of transition would mean at least some dislocation. I hope, however, that we shall be able to finish this work of integration soon and all the necessary arrangements would be made without avoidable delay.

3. We have immediately to take in hand the work of surveying the natural resources and examining the potentialities of our new State. We have to increase our production to its maximum so that food, clothing and other necessaries of life may be easily available to our people. We shall also make an effort to enrich the cattle wealth of our State. The natural wealth lying hidden under the surface will have to be discovered. Our forests are to be preserved and protected. We have to increase our electric power. Facilities for irrigation comprising both major and minor works will have to be created. We shall also examine if any major schemes of irrigation can be successfully taken up in hand. The transport system will have to be improved. The railway and the road development may take some time but it is our intention to make early arrangements

regarding air routes. We are also anxious to particularly develop the motor transport and it would be our effort to discourage the monopoly system in this connection. We would also like to establish inter-communication between different parts of the State through the radio and the telephone. The internal customs' barriers are soon to be abolished and thus, as well as in other ways, internal trade is to be encouraged. We also want to encourage development of industries of all kinds in our State and for that purpose we would give every possible help to the industrialists. We would particularly help small scale industries. To sum up, a vast field for all-round development lies before us and it would be our attempt to do the utmost in this connection. It is quite possible that for all new schemes of development, the Government may not have sufficient finances. In such a case, for those works which the Government would take in hand it would not hesitate even to go in for loans to the extent they are found to be necessary.

4. The schemes of integration and development would thus go on and at the same time the basic and-day-to-day functions of the Government will also have to be attended to. The first thing demanding our utmost attention would be to maintain complete internal security within the borders of the new State. So far as this question of internal security goes the Government shall not permit any kind of looseness and it is our firm determination that we shall strongly deal with those who would dare to dusturb peace and security of the Province. There is a long border-line in our State and we have to make necessary arrangements there also. We are sure that both for internal as well as external security necessary help and advice of the Central Government would be available to us. I am particularly happy that His Highness the Rajpramukh is an expert in military matters and I am confident that his military genius would prove an asset for our State as well as the Country.

5. It is no secret that in Rajasthan poor and resourceless masses have been put to so much harassment and oppression. The strong has oppressed the weak. It is our determination that we would not let this happen in future. In every corner of the State we shall ensure that no one oppresses another. No one has any right to take begar from anyone. Nothing except legitimate land revenue should

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be realised from the agriculturists. Taking of bribes is already considered a crime but to find out cases of corruption and punish the persons concerned would be a difficult task. Black-marketing has brought much hardship to the people. In all these matters so far as the public is concerned I wish to appeal to them that in any way they would not be a party to these things. The general public is also put to great difficulties in regard to their day-to-day grievances. The public requires better knowledge in such cases so that none may deceive them. The modern judicial system means some delay, but it is obvious that the Government cannot be much helpful in this connection at least in the near future. In executive matters we shall make an effort that inconveniences and embarrassments of the public are avoided and speedy relief and justice are given to them

6. The new Government of Rajasthan State shall take all possible measures for the spread of education and enlightenment in the State. The problems of women's and backward classes' education would demand our special attention. The question of adult education will also have to be tackled. A scheme for compulsory primary education will have to be made. Resuscitation of old art and culture and its preservation also needs our care. We will have to increase facilities for technical education and will send our students to foreign countries for necessary training. The present Rajputana University requires reorganization and over-hauling and the whole scheme of higher education needs reshuffling and coordination. The syllabuses for the basic primary education at present taught in schools also need great improvement. Medical aid is to be made available to the general masses and necessary protective measures against diseases are to be taken. In this connection full use will be made of the Ayurvedic system of treatment. Travelling dispensaries will be of help. Epidemics will have to be checked with special effort. With the improvement in education and public health the question of creating a sense of self-organization and self reliance in the public will also have to be tackled on the basis of such local self-governing institutions as the village panchayats. The people will have to be encouraged to carry on their own work on a collective basis and out of a common pool of funds collected for the purpose from the people themselves. The cooperative movement will have

to be fully made use of for purposes of rural welfare and for creating a sense of self-reliance in the rural population. The water problem facing people in different areas will also be tackled. In all works of public welfare cooperation and assistance of public workers would be solicited.

7. It would be the duty of the new Government that within its own limits it works for the establishment of greatest possible equality amongst people as soon as possible. None can deny the fact that the jagirdari system is an anachronism today. The system might have been considered necessary and useful at sometime in the past, but now times have changed and in these changed times nobody can support the jagirdari system. Therefore, it would be expected of the jagirdars that they surrender all their special rights without grudge. The final solution of the jagirdari problem may take sometime. But out of the revenues received by the jagirdars that a fair percentage is given to the Government for works of public welfare, is something which will have to be done without delay. This would also give satisfaction to the jagirdars that they do not lag behind others in the work of national reconstruction. Both in jagiri as well as khalsa areas the agriculturist will have to be given his rights. In areas where settlement has not already taken place, settlement operations will have now to be carried out and such tenancy legislation will have to be passed as may give protection to the tenants. So far as I can see there are a few big industries in Rajasthan but wherever they exist the interests of the labourers will have to be protected. I hope the capitalists of Rajasthan would help the development of the Province. The Government certainly would give them help in this good work, but the Government would also expect of them that, on one side, they would take necessary care to safeguard the interests of the workers and, on the other side, they would help the Government also in the work of its financial reorganization. It would be the duty of the Rajasthan Government that it takes full care to work for the Harijans, Adibasis and other backward classes and thus brings them on a standard similar to that of others. The work of refugees' relief and rehabilitation would naturally claim much of our organizing capacity and resources. In this new State, without distinctions of caste and class, all will get equal opportunity

for self-development and we shall see that no discrimination is made either in favour of or against anyone.

8. I think I have touched all important problems in the above paragraphs. I again repeat that we have a stupendous and difficult task before us. By succeeding in this work we have to prove the capacity and ability of our people. We have full confidence in ourselves but others would repose confidence in us only to the extent we succeed. I repeatedly feel that our sense of patriotism and our abilities are being put to a very hard test. In such difficult circumstances I first of all appeal to all Congressmen that they keep in mind the greatness of the present times and in keeping with it develop a wider vision so that, just as they have worked and sacrificed for bringing this great moment, they also prove helpful in consolidating what we have thereby got. May it not be said for us in future that as *against our big claims we after all proved ourselves to be small men,* when the time for big things came. For the Princes I may say that by accepting integration they have given proof of their patriotism and in the public eye their position has been enhanced. I know that as a result of this change the real responsibility of administration has shifted to the people, but this is not going to adversely affect in any way the dignity and prestige of the Princes. I want to say to the jagirdars that in the past their ancestors did great things. It is expected of them to act similarly in the changed times of today and the biggest and best thing for them is that they refuse to live on the capital of the past and come in the midst of the common people and prove that capacity of theirs about which history may be said to be a positive proof. Let not the jagirdars give anyone an opportunity to think that in any respect they are behind others in patriotism or sacrifice of self-interest. In fact they should show it to the world that according to the needs of the time they also are prepared to work and sacrifice for their country. To all big and small officers of the State I have to say only one thing that on such a big occasion their responsibilities are great. I am quite conscious of the fact that integration is going to bring for many of them difficulties and hardships but I want to assure them that the Government of Rajasthan would protect the rights of the services without any partiality. The Government can lay down a programme and policy but it is for

the services to work them out. I hope the services would shoulder their increased responsibilities with a sense of patriotism and public interest. To the general mass of the public I can say only this much that the present is the period of transition. In this period of transition this new Government has also got some opportunity to serve the people. Therefore, the general public should appreciate a little of our difficulties and the limitations and may not expect of us more than what is reasonable. It is my insistence that the present is not the time for caste, class or creed preferences. We want to consolidate our newly won freedom and therefore the people, leaving aside all differences, should cooperate with the Government and help it in making its schemes successful. We, should all remember that the Government of India has played a major part in the formation of this Rajasthan and in making it a success also their part will be there. I am sure this new Government will get all kind of help from the Government of India. In the end I want to appeal to the Press also. I want to say that first they should try to investigate the truth and they should also think that where and when and how the truth should be published. In modern times Press plays a very important role in making and marring things. I would appeal to my friends of the Press that they should keep in view that by any action on their part, nothing suffers but everything is helped.